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1970/05/18

SECRET/EXDIS

(97)

Department of State

TELEGRAM

POL 7 AMB-CHICOM

CONT: 1284-138

DATE: 18 MAY 70

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

AMB (C)
DCM
CHRON/D

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC FLASH 2010

WARSAW 1284

SUBJECT: Chicoms Cancel May 20 Warsaw Meeting; 4-16-88

Hijacking Letter Tentatively Delivered

REF: STATE 74355

1. At Chicom request, CH'IEN and YEH received by SIMONS and CHAMPEAU at US Embassy 1100 May 18.
2. Ch'ien read following statement. QUOTE I am instructed by our Chargé d'Affaires to inform you of the following. In view of the increasingly more serious situation created by the US Government in flagrantly sending troops to invade Cambodia and expanding its war of aggression in Indochina, the Chinese Government believes that it has become improper to hold the Sino-US ambassadorial talks on May 20, according to the original schedule, and that the meeting can only ^{cease} ~~take~~ place. The proper time to hold a ~~meeting~~ meeting in the future can be decided upon later through consultations by the liaison personnel

DRAFTED BY: *hws*
POL: TWSimons, Jr/afm

DRAFTING DATE: 4/18/70
TEL EXT: 201

APPROVED BY:
AMB - Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.

CLEARANCES:

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of the two sides, who may meet on June 20. Our side will release news about the postponement of this meeting. END QUOTE.

3. Simons replied as follows. QUOTE. I am authorized by the Ambassador to state the following. Without implying acceptance of the charges made in your statement regarding the situation in Indochina, we regret the decision of your side to postpone the May 20 meeting. Your statement will be reported immediately to Washington, and we will be in touch with you regarding your proposal that the liaison personnel meet on June 20. END QUOTE

4. Ch'ien made a brief rejoinder that increasingly grave situation in Indochina is entirely created by USG in expanding war and that US side must be held entirely responsible for May 20 meeting's not being able take place on schedule. Simons said he would report this too.

5. As instructed reftel, Simons then handed Ch'ien hijacking letter with one copy and requested transmittal to Charge. After reading letter, Ch'ien said he would give it to Charge, but would call Simons if Charge did not wish to accept it.

6. Fifteen-minute meeting very businesslike but without hostility.

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7. We will not initiate any statement to press concerning cancellation. In response to queries from correspondents based on any announcement from Chinese side, we will confirm postponement and will refer all further queries to Department.

GP-2.

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